

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A method of identifying incoming calls, comprising:
  - responsive to detecting an incoming call, determining caller identification information associated with the incoming call without allowing an audible indicator of the incoming call to sound;
  - comparing the caller identification information associated with the incoming call with caller identification information for allowable calling parties;
  - capturing the caller identification information;
  - responsive to determining a match between the caller identification information associated with the incoming call and caller identification information for an allowable calling party, allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound; and
  - retransmitting the caller identification information immediately after allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, where in the step of determining caller identification information occurs at a customer premises location, and wherein the step of allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound further comprises:
  - identifying a communications device at a customer equipment premises location within a plurality of communications devices to which the incoming call should be routed; and
  - passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device further comprises:
  - passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device without passing the ring signals associated with the incoming call to another communications device within the plurality of communications devices.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
  - responsive to determining no match between the caller identification information associated with the incoming call and caller identification information for an allowable calling

party, passing the incoming call to an answering system without allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to the identified communications device being lifted off hook after the ring signals are passed to the identified communications device, maintaining a connection of the incoming call to the identified communications device.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Amended) A method of identifying incoming calls, comprising:

responsive to detecting an incoming call, determining the presence of caller identification information associated with the incoming call without allowing an audible indicator of the incoming call to sound;

selecting a default mode when there is not any caller identification information associated with the incoming call, the default mode selectively controlled by the user;

handling the call in accordance with the selected default mode.

21. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the incoming call is received at a customer premises location, and wherein the handling step comprises transmitting the call to a live port.

22. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the incoming call is received at a customer premises location over an incoming single line, and wherein the handling step comprises transmitting the call to a handset also at the customer premises location.

23. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the handling step comprises transmitting the call to an answering system.

24. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the handling step further includes suppressing transmission of the ring bursts associated with the incoming call.

25. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the incoming call is not retransmitted.

26. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the default step is controlled by the user.

27. (Canceled)